

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS INFORMATION SUMMARY... *for your review*

DATE:

October 24, 2000

SUBJECT:

Recommendation for the Future Designation of the CANAMEX Corridor Through the Maricopa Region

SUMMARY:

At the July Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee meeting, an update was provided on the identification of a CANAMEX Corridor through the Maricopa region. Study of the corridor was initiated by MAG and ADOT, and a consultant was hired by ADOT to assist in the compilation of evaluation data for the route options. Numerous public meetings were held, and on September 14, 2000, the Governor's CANAMEX Task Force approved a resolution regarding additional routes to be eliminated from consideration and a resolution defining the route to be considered for future designation. Staff is in agreement with the action of the CANAMEX Task Force and has incorporated this action into the CANAMEX Report. A resolution has been prepared for consideration.

The route being proposed for the CANAMEX Corridor would be from Interstate 10 westerly along Interstate 8 and up State Route 85 to Interstate 10. The ultimate westerly bypass around Wickenburg identified by ADOT in the Design Concept Report is also being recommended as part of the route. The remaining portion, yet to be determined between the bypass and Interstate 10, would be located outside of the MAG nonattainment boundary as identified in the 1999 Serious Area Plan for PM-10.

At the October 18, 2000 meeting of the Management Committee, the recommendation was amended at the request of the representative for the City of Glendale to reflect an understanding that the remainder of the route undetermined in Maricopa County be recommended within six months. This target schedule has been incorporated into the recommendation, which may preclude full consideration of the results from related studies in progress, including the study for the Wickenburg Bypass that is part of the current recommendation for the CANAMEX Corridor.

At the October 6, 2000 meeting of the Transportation Review Committee, the representative for the Town of Buckeye voiced support for the report and resolution as well as the need for further study as recommended in the report for the northern section. Additionally, the representative for Maricopa County stated that the County Transportation Advisory Board had indicated that it wanted the County Department of Transportation to participate as a full partner in the upcoming study, as the remaining alternatives under consideration for the northern section were County facilities.

For information, the letter dated September 11, 2000 from the Arizona Department of Public Safety stating their preference for the Corridor to be located west of the White Tank Mountains (eliminating Loop 303 and any other alternatives to the east) is also attached.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Agency, public and other stakeholder input has been received throughout the project including on the draft technical report and draft recommendations. Open houses and public meetings were held in Sun City West, Buckeye and Wickenburg on August 31, September 5 and 7 respectively. Attendance at the Sun City West meeting was approximately 600; attendance at the other two meetings was approximately 50 each. Transcripts and a compilation of written comments received at these meetings are attached. Significant opposition was voiced to consideration of Loop 303. Opposition to consideration of the Sun Valley Parkway was also voiced. Support for further study for a connection between the SR 85 / I-10 junction and the Wickenburg Bypass was noted.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: Approval of the report and the resolution helps to eliminate uncertainty for local agencies, the public and other stakeholders, with regard to the selection of a corridor. The approvals would as well represent a step in the process to designate the corridor in federal legislation and in the future possibly obtain federal funding for the recommended improvements.

CONS: Federal funding assistance may be limited for this category of projects.

TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL: The CANAMEX Corridor route through Maricopa County has not been defined to date. The report recommendations and resolution reflect regional interests for the corridor.

POLICY: Development of the CANAMEX Corridor is consistent with the policy goals of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan.

ACTION NEEDED:

Approve the MAG/ADOT CANAMEX report and the resolution for the future designation of the CANAMEX Corridor through the Maricopa region with the understanding that the remainder of the route undetermined in Maricopa County be recommended within six months.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Management Committee: At the October 18, 2000 meeting, the Management Committee recommended approving the MAG/ADOT CANAMEX report and the resolution for the future designation of the CANAMEX Corridor through the Maricopa region with the understanding that the remainder of the route undetermined in Maricopa County be recommended within six months. The vote passed with one no vote (*italics*).

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Lloyd Harrell, Chandler, Chairman	Paradise Valley: Tom Martinsen
Avondale: Scott Schrader	Peoria: Terry Ellis
Buckeye: Joe Blanton	<i>Phoenix: Frank Fairbanks</i>
*Carefree: Jon Pearson	Queen Creek: Joe LaFortune for
Cave Creek: Usama Abujbarah	Cynthia Seelhammer
El Mirage: Stuart Brackney	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian
*Fountain Hills: Paul Nordin	Community: David Easchief
Gila Bend: Carl Stephani	Scottsdale: Roger Klingler for Jan Dolan
Gila River Indian Community: Urban Giff	Surprise: Bill Pupo
Gilbert: Kent Cooper	Tempe: Shannon Wilhelmsen for John Greco
Glendale: Martin Vanacour	Tolleson: Ralph Velez
Goodyear: Jerene Watson for	Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter
Stephen Cleveland	*Youngtown: Lloyce Robinson
Guadalupe: Mark Johnson	ADOT: Dick Wright for Mary Peters
*Litchfield Park: Horatio Skeete	Maricopa County: Tom Buick for David Smith
Mesa: Jeff Martin for Mike Hutchinson	RPTA: Matt Ortega for Ken Driggs

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Transportation Review Committee: At the October 6, 2000 meeting, the Transportation Review Committee unanimously recommended approving the MAG/ADOT CANAMEX report and approving the resolution for the future designation of the CANAMEX Corridor through the Maricopa region.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chairman	Litchfield Park: Mike Carsonis
ADOT: Chuck Eaton for Victor Mendez	Maricopa County: Tom Buick
Avondale: William Bates	Mesa: Jeff Martin
Buckeye: Joe Blanton	Paradise Valley: Tom Martinsen

Chandler: Bryan Patterson
*Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel
Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Jim Book
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel

Peoria: David Moody
Phoenix: Lynn Timmons for Tom Callow
RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth for Ken Driggs
Scottsdale: John Little
Surprise: Ellis Perl

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

Regional Bicycle Task Force: Patrick
McDermott, Chandler
*Street Committee: Gary Thomas, Gilbert
ITS Committee: Jim Book

*Pedestrian Working Group: Steve Hancock,
Mesa for Mike Branham, Surprise

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

CONTACT PERSON:

Chris Voigt or Eric Anderson, (602) 254-6300.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE
CANAMEX CORRIDOR THROUGH THE MARICOPA REGION**

WHEREAS, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) recognized the need to analyze alternatives for a route through the Maricopa region for the CANAMEX Corridor,

WHEREAS, such designation carried into federal legislation will better enable the region to receive federal funding for improvements to that corridor,

WHEREAS, a joint MAG-ADOT study of alternative corridors has been completed, and agency, public and other stakeholder consultation on the results of the study has been conducted,

WHEREAS, the Governor's CANAMEX Task Force has reviewed and considered the results of the study, including input received during previous consultation, and passed resolutions supporting the direction of the study recommendations, as follows:

Resolution #1: Be it resolved that the CANAMEX Task Force recommend that Loops 101 and 303 be eliminated from further consideration for designation as part of the CANAMEX Corridor through Maricopa County.

Resolution #2: Be it resolved that the CANAMEX Task Force recommend that the future CANAMEX designation through Maricopa County shall include I-8 from I-10 to SR 85, SR 85 from I-8 to I-10, and the route commonly referred to as the "ultimate Wickenburg Bypass" as defined by the ADOT Design Concept Report that is currently underway, and that all future connecting routes within Maricopa County be located outside of the air quality nonattainment area as defined in the MAG 1999 Serious Area Plan for PM-10.

WHEREAS, a resolution is needed to provide certainty to MAG member agencies and to the public as to which routes have been eliminated from further consideration for the CANAMEX Corridor,

WHEREAS, further study is needed for the portion of the corridor between the SR 85 / I-10 junction and the Wickenburg Bypass, as the selection of a route in this area could be affected by other ongoing studies and plans that are expected to be completed in 2001,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Maricopa Association of Governments recommends the future designation of the CANAMEX Corridor within the Maricopa region to include I-8 between I-10 and SR 85, SR 85 between I-8 and I-10, and the US 93 / US 60 Wickenburg Bypass, with the connection between the SR 85 / I-10 junction and the Wickenburg Bypass to be designated following additional study but constrained to a location outside of the air quality nonattainment area for particulate matter under ten microns in diameter (PM-10) as specified in the "Revised MAG 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10 for the Maricopa County Nonattainment Area" (February 2000).

ADOPTED THIS first day of November 2000.

Mayor Skip Rimsza, Chairman
MAG Regional Council

James M. Bourey, Secretary
MAG Executive Director